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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS  
OF  
THE KILKENNY AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
FOR THE YEAR 1861.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments,  
William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, January 2nd, 1861.

CHRISTOPHER HUMFREY, Esq., in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected:—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Portsmouth, Hurstbourne Park,  
Whitchurch, Hants: proposed by George C. Roberts, Esq.

The Honourable Standish Prendergast Vereker, 10, Warwick-  
square, London: proposed by J. P. Prendergast, Esq.

Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq., Dublin: proposed by R. R. Brash,  
Esq.

Dennis O'Callaghan Fisher, Esq., 198, Great Brunswick-street,  
Dublin: proposed by J. P. Prendergast, Esq., and seconded by Sir  
Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms.

James Morrin, Esq., Dangan, Thomastown; and Patrick  
O'Herlihy, Esq., 33, Ebenezer Terrace, Sunday's Well, Cork:  
proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Walter S. Gifford, Esq., J. P., Ballysop, New Ross: proposed  
by Richard Long, Esq., M. D.

Henry James, Esq., Surveyor of Post Offices, Limerick: proposed  
by Alderman Michael Banim.

The Rev. John Molony, P. P., Ring, Dungarvan: proposed by  
J. Power, Esq.

The Report of the Committee, for the year 1860, was read by  
the Honorary Secretaries as follows:—

Your Committee gladly commence their yearly Report by announcing the election of *fifty-eight* new Members since the first of January, 1860; making the aggregate of Members not in arrear, after the deduction of losses by death and other causes, amount to *six hundred and eight*, of whom *thirty* have compounded for life.

In reviewing the progress of the Society since its formation in 1849, your Committee can proudly point to the results of co-operation. The Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society is a bundle of twigs, each in itself very insignificant, but all potent in union. Now although a bundle of twigs may be very strong when bound together, yet it is self-evident that the strength of the whole must grow by the increase of each part. Our hundreds of subscribing Members, combining to pay the insignificant sum of *six shillings* each, have (as the five goodly volumes issued by the Society amply prove) enabled your officers to do good service in the cause of Irish Archæology. An examination, however, of the yearly balance-sheets must show that, but for the generous donations of a small minority of the Members, and, latterly, the sums received as the compositions of a limited number of Life Members, the united force of our six-shilling subscriptions would never have sufficed to work the Society so successfully as it has been heretofore; and its operations must long since have been more fairly proportioned to its income.

With these considerations strongly impressed on their minds, your Committee trust that the Members will see the necessity of looking the difficulty boldly in the face, and seeking for a remedy. They therefore advise that the following steps should be taken to place the Society on a more secure basis.

1st. That the Meetings of the Society be held quarterly, instead of bi-monthly, for the future; and that the "Journal" of the Society be issued at like intervals. This change will not only cause a considerable saving in the binding, covering, and issuing of the "Journal," but will also, in the event of such a course being found necessary, enable the Committee to reduce the quantity of printed matter given in return for Members' subscriptions. But, in order to obviate a necessity so much to be deplored, your Committee suggest:—

2nd. That a special "Illustration Fund" be formed, and that Members be invited to contribute thereto annually in such proportion as they may see fit, in addition to the ordinary subscription of 6s. The important uses of such a fund need not be dwelt on. As a noble commencement of the proposed "Illustration Fund," your Committee have to announce that Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq., M. P., has undertaken to supply, at his own cost, the numerous engravings required to illustrate "*Dineley's Tour in Ireland, Temp. Charles II.*" the printing of which has been already commenced in the "Journal," but hitherto delayed, as to its completion, by the inability of the funds to meet the large outlay required to engrave the numerous drawings of towns, castles, abbeys, and monuments by which it is illustrated.

3rdly. Your Committee are most anxious to relieve the general funds from the expense consequent on the support and proper management of the Museum and Library. This portion of the Society's operations is exclusively local; and were there found thirty local subscribers at £1 each,

or sixty at 10s., a fund would be formed sufficient to guarantee the permanency of the Museum, even were the Society dissolved. The Museum of the Society is the only provincial institution of the kind in Ireland; and must prove a credit to the county and city of Kilkenny, if properly supported. Your Committee is far from wishing that such local collections as ours should be antagonistic to the great National Museum of Antiquities formed under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy. On the contrary, they should act as machinery, by which all really valuable antiques might be secured for the latter, instead of being sent to the melting-pot, or sold out of the country. An instance to the point is the recent purchase by the Royal Irish Academy of the "Kilkenny Brooch," which, but for the existence of this Society's Museum, and the consequent attention directed to such remains, would have passed into the hands of some travelling dealer, or been sold in London. Your Committee calculate that £30 per annum would amply suffice to pay the rent of the Museum premises, provide for the purchase of such locally interesting antiques as may be offered for sale, and enable the Committee to provide cases for the proper exhibition of the collection, and defray the expense of binding the valuable periodicals which are presented to the Library by kindred Societies at home and abroad. It is a distinguishing mark of the management, not alone of the Museum, but of the Society at large, that not one halfpenny of its funds is expended in salaries—all its officers being honorary.

Your Committee trust that these suggestions may be approved of by the members; and hope that sufficient public spirit will be found in the ranks of the Society and of the people of Kilkenny, to convert them into accomplished facts before the next Annual Meeting comes round.

Your Committee are glad to report that much has been done during last summer to remove obstructions which disfigured the noble architectural remains of Jerpoint Abbey, and secure its preservation. The old wall which stretched across the nave of the abbey church has been removed, thus throwing open the view from east to west. A portion of ground, including the site of the south side-aisle of the nave, has been purchased from squatters, enabling the Committee to take down the enclosing wall built when the abbey was lately under repair, and to remove it further south, so as to rescue from desecration the entire site of the abbey church; whilst enough land remains over to supply, by its annual rent, compensation to a caretaker. The thanks of the Society are due to James S. Blake, Esq., J. P., a member of the Committee, for the judicious and careful manner in which he has carried out these improvements.

The Treasurer reports that some outstanding arrears have been paid up this year; and your Committee trust that all members will bear in mind that, as the printing of the Society's "Journal" proceeds in advance, and as the Treasurer is personally liable for the outlay in the first instance, it is essential to the very existence of the Society that members should be punctual in remitting their subscriptions to him as soon as possible after the first of January in each year.

The Report was adopted, and ordered to be printed.

On the motion of Alderman Banim, seconded by Mr. P. A. Aylward, the Honorary Officers and Committee of the previous year

were re-elected, substituting, as a member of the Committee, Peter Burtchaell, Esq., C. E., County Surveyor of Kilkenny, for his predecessor in office, removed by death.

Mr. J. G. Roberts, and Mr. P. Aylward, were elected auditors of the accounts for the year 1861.

In the absence of the Rev. James Graves, who had given notice of the motion at the last General Meeting, Mr. Prim proposed the following resolution, the effect of which, he said would be, in accordance with the recommendation of the Report, to reduce the Meetings of the Society from six to four in the year, and make the issue of the "Journal" quarterly, instead of bi-monthly:—

"That the sixth General Rule be altered and stand as follows:—

"The Society shall meet on the first Wednesday in January, April, July, and October, when papers and correspondence on Archaeological subjects shall be read, and objects of antiquarian interest exhibited."

Dr. Delany seconded the proposition, and the resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Prim, in accordance with the suggestion of the Report, also moved:—

"That those of our Members who are desirous of keeping our future volumes up to the standard of those already issued, shall be invited to secure that result by special Annual Subscriptions of 4s., 6s., 8s., 10s., 12s., 14s., or such other sum as may suit their convenience, for the establishment of a permanent "Illustration Fund."

Dr. Delany suggested that a better course might be to increase the annual subscription of all the Members by a shilling or two, which, there being 600 Members, would amount in the aggregate to a considerable sum, although individually the difference of the expense would be a mere trifle.

The Chairman thought the suggestion a good one, as then all would pay equally, and some would not be at the expense of providing more valuable publications for those who would not contribute to the object.

Mr. Aylward remarked that the danger might be that some Members might consider that faith was broken with them, if the annual subscription was raised without consulting them. If left optional with them, some Members might follow the example of Mr. Shirley, and others might voluntarily contribute in a lesser degree.

Mr. Banim thought they might as well give the voluntary principle a trial first.

Mr. Robertson then seconded the resolution proposed, which passed *nem. con.*

With reference to the suggestion of the Committee's Report, as

to the feasibility of supporting the Museum independently of the Society's general funds,

Mr. Aylward moved, "That steps be taken to establish the Museum on a permanent basis, so as to be independent of the general funds of the Society," thus leaving it an open question as to what steps should be taken for the purpose.

Dr. James seconded the proposition, which was then adopted.

The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Brash, the proposer of Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq., as follows:—

"I have been requested by Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq., of Collegegreen, Dublin, to propose him a Member of the Kilkenny Archæological Society. I need scarcely remind you of the noble and praiseworthy example set by Mr. Guinness in his restoration of the venerable fabric of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin,—an act of both good taste and munificence, that I sincerely trust will find imitators. I feel bound to state, for the information of your Members, that these restorations are carried on with the most anxious care to re-produce the ancient features of the edifice, without any embellishments unauthorized by the existing remains. The works are executing in a most permanent and satisfactory manner. I mention these matters to re-assure the minds of the Members of our Society, who must naturally feel anxious on the subject from the absurd rumours circulated a short time since by uninformed parties."

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 32.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 730-34, inclusive.

By the Geological Society of Dublin: their "Journal," Vol. VIII., part 3.

By Miss H. C. Archer Butler: "Le Tombeau de Childéric I<sup>er</sup>. Roi des Francs, restitué à l'Aide de l'Archéologie." Par M. L'Abbé Cochet.

By the Cambrian Archæological Society: The "Report" of the Bangor Meeting of the Society.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal" for September, 1860.

By the Cambridge Antiquarian Society: their "Report and Communications," No. 10.

By the Architectural and Archæological Society for the County of Buckingham: "Records of Buckinghamshire," Vol. II., parts 1 and 2.

By the Historic Society of Lancashire and Chester: their "Transactions," Vol. XII., session 1859-60.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for December, 1860.

By Mr. John O'Daly, of Anglesea-street, Dublin : an ancient official transcript of the grant by patent of land and houses in Inistiogue, county Kilkenny, to Sir Charles Wilmott, dated at Dublin, December 9, in the ninth year of James I. The patent was curious as well for other reasons, as giving the names of most of the inhabitants of Inistiogue at the commencement of the seventeenth century. Mr. O'Daly had picked up the document at a waste paper shop, and stated that many similar records were daily destroyed.

By Mr. Prim, on the part of the Member of the Society who had contributed the interesting ancient document respecting the O'Neills, of Mount Neill, at the last Meeting : a parchment deed of the year 1630, being a record of an agreement as to the boundaries of their respective adjoining properties, executed between Nicholas Wise, of Rochestown, and Redmond Mores, of Moilerstown, gentlemen, both of the county of Tipperary.

By Alderman Banim : a small cannon ball, which had been found in the debris of a part of the town-wall of Limerick, near the citadel, by his brother, John Banim, when he visited that city for the purpose of obtaining information for his tale "The Boyne Water." Thus the object presented to the Society's Museum was interesting not merely as a relic of the famous siege of Limerick, but as a memento of a distinguished Kilkenny man.

By Mr. E. Benn, of Glenravel, near Belfast : one of those primæval remains supposed to have been originally used as distaff weights, but popularly termed "fairy millstones," of which numbers had been found in his district.

The following communication, also from Mr. Benn, was read :—

"Some time ago, a man setting potatoes in the townland of Errishacroe, parish of Dunaghy, and county of Antrim, found an urn of a superior description, which is now in my possession. It is about twelve inches deep, ten inches wide at the mouth, five in the bottom, and nearly half an inch thick. It is ornamented with lines drawn diagonally from the large rim at the top to the bottom, the intersections forming regular lozenges. These lines are neatly and regularly formed; and from the strength and perfect regularity of shape of the urn, it must have been made upon a wheel. It has been glazed; and the glaze still remains, converted now into what looks like a coating of brown paint. It is altogether in fine preservation, except that the bottom has been knocked off, in which condition, it is singular to say, it appears to have been originally placed, having been found with its mouth down, and a stone thrust into the turned-up broken bottom, for the purpose of closing it. The urn enclosed many fragments of calcined bones, which, from their appearance, must have belonged to a man of great size: the pieces of the skull are of extraordinary thickness. There was no carn over it; but from the number of stone fences adjoining, there is little doubt that a heap of stones had formerly covered the place, which in the course of time had been removed. It was

placed at the side of a small projecting rock, which had probably been taken advantage of for the purpose of increasing the apparent height of the cairn.

"There was nothing otherwise remarkable in the site, except that it stood on the edge of the pass, which was, I have reason to think, the way from the earliest times from the sea-coast to the interior of this part of the county of Antrim. This pass seems to have come from the coast up Glenariff, the most beautiful, probably, of all the Antrim glens; then crossing a short track of mountain till it reached the head of the Ravel Water, from thence following the course of that river into the interior of the country. I may remark that the new road quite recently made, and laid down, it is to be supposed, on the best engineering principles, follows nearly a similar course.

"Several other sepulchral urns have been found in this neighbourhood; one, some years ago, near the great standing-stone in the townland of Cargen; and another, in a bank overhanging the Ravel river. In this latter case, the river had encroached on the land, so as to expose the urn to observation. In this situation it was seen by a person walking along the bank, and who, disappointed at not finding treasure in it, which is the vulgar belief of the people, dashed it to pieces on a stone. These urns were both of small size; but a curious circumstance has been related to me with reference to the finding of calcined human bones without any urn. I have been informed by two persons—and I have no reason to question the accuracy of their statements—that one of them found calcined bones in an enclosure of stones covered with a cairn, consisting of two or three cartloads; and the other, that he found similar bones in a round hole cut in a dry subsoil covered with a flat stone, on the top of a little hill. I have not heard of such discoveries being made elsewhere; doubtless, there may be, as it is but reasonable to suppose that interments in those primitive times were like those of the present age, some very humble, and others on an expensive scale; the large, ornamental urns, for example, containing the ashes of great chiefs; while the burnt bones of the common people—at least sometimes, it is probable—were interred, as in the cases above mentioned, without any urns.

"The district of country in which these things have been discovered consists of the slopes of low, green, and partly boggy mountains, with glens or valleys of more or less breadth intervening. Like many such places in Ireland, it seems to have been inhabited at a very early period, and to have been afterwards abandoned, or used as occasional summer pasture; in which state great part of it continued till quite a recent time. The locality being good, and now opened up with improved roads, it is being brought rapidly into cultivation; and thus, in breaking up land which has never before been disturbed, some interesting things are from time to time brought to light. It is not to be supposed, though such places were inhabited at a remote period, that the population of the country was at all great; but that the lower parts being encumbered with wood and bog, the green slopes of the dry mountains offered the best location for the few inhabitants, and the best pasturage for their cattle; on the produce of which, and the spoils of the chase, they doubtless mainly subsisted,



scarcely any trace of agriculture being discoverable. So far as the discovery of antiquarian objects in this new soil would indicate the few inhabitants who lived in it, it would appear to have been in a very low state of civilization, and to have possessed nothing of much value. Two fine bronze spears have been found; one good brooch set with glass or enamel, which was carried off, and which I did not see; in one place a number of pennies of Edward I. or II. have been from time to time dug up. Coins of this period are indeed often found in considerable hoards in this country—probably lost or concealed at the time of the great ruin and destruction brought upon Ulster after Edward Bruce's invasion. Besides these, many beads are found, some of a large size, and two, in my possession, of that interesting kind peculiar, I believe, to Ireland, and which I can no otherwise describe than as two beads united, without any perforation for a string. There is still another class of articles found here—so frequently, indeed, as to be scarcely worth collecting. These are flint arrow-heads, and small stone hatchets. I do not allude to finely-made hatchets, such as are remarkable for size or finish. One such was found here recently, nearly a foot long, and four inches broad, finely polished, and neatly made. It was probably a war hatchet; at any rate, a strong man only could use it effectually for any purpose. The small hatchets, it is reasonable to conjecture, were applicable more to domestic uses, as cutting and skinning animals, splitting firewood, and purposes of that kind. They are generally about five or six inches long, two inches broad at the face, rounded off and sharpened, gradually narrowing to about an inch in diameter, with a blunt end. They are commonly made of hard basalt, the rock of this district. Some are made of stone not found here; but this is rare. The stone of the country has formed the general material; and their construction, I would conjecture, has been effected in this manner:—The streams were searched for water-worn stones, approaching as nearly as possible to the form required. These were then, by the process commonly called *knapping*, reduced to the shape of rude, unfinished hatchets, and completed finally by friction. Some are still rude at the end, untouched apparently, except by what I have called the *knapping*; the sharp edge, or that required for use, being alone finished. They are far more generally, however, smooth throughout; but the way in which they were made has been suggested to me by the circumstance of the rude blocks of nine or ten hatchets having been found together in a heap on the bank of a small stream. They were blocked out into shape in the manner I have mentioned, and would seem to have remained in the place in which they lay since the time they were first formed. The intention was, probably, to carry them elsewhere to finish; and they were either forgotten or left behind from some cause.

“ The process of making the numerous arrows that are found here was similar to that of the hatchets. The flints were broken where they were got, which is a number of miles from this district. The flint naturally splits into flakes, such as seemed to answer well the required purpose. They were then blocked out, or chipped into triangular pieces, the size of an arrow, and carried off to be finished at leisure. In confirmation of this statement, I have to mention that, some time ago, near the fort of Dun-

gonnell,<sup>1</sup> was found a large flat stone, around which many small splinters of flint were lying. Among them were found an arrow not finished, and a triangular piece of flint, evidently intended to form one, as if they had dropped from the hands of the workman at his working place, and had been lost among the useless fragments. There would be a difficulty in forming an opinion as to the use of this triangular piece of flint, if the place in which it was found, and the chipped flints around it, did not prove its intended purpose. Would these matters tend to throw any light on the great quantities of flints said to have been found lately in France, which have so much puzzled antiquaries and geologists?

"The arrows are generally turned up in ground not before broken, when being set in potatoes for the first time. They would seem to have been used for destroying hares, or birds. If so, a great number in this way must have been lost, carried off by wounded animals, or, when they missed their aim, overlooked in the excitement of the chase, or hid by long grass. Besides, they were easily made, and not worth the trouble of looking for. The continuance of this state of society for many generations will account for the abundance of arrows found here. There is, however, a great difference in the skill exhibited in their workmanship. Some are extremely well made, neatly, even elegantly formed,—others quite rough, and rude in finish. I do not think they are so old as is generally supposed. They would answer the purpose of shooting small animals as well as metal arrows, and would be much more easily obtained. From these circumstances, as well as from an examination of other stone implements, the theory of what is called the stone age would appear not to be very well sustained. Thus, I have a very fine stone hammer, found here, in which the hole intended for the handle is bored with such smoothness, precision, and accuracy, that I cannot see how it could have been made, except with a very good metal tool. Other round stones are also found with holes in the centre, bevelled off, and smoothed, so as not to cut the rope, apparently, or whatever else they were attached to. One of these would make a very useful, or rather a very dangerous weapon, presenting some points of similarity to what is called a life-preserver of the present day. Another specimen of stone implement has been brought to me, the use of which I cannot well understand. It consists of a tolerably heavy stone, with two holes at the ends exactly opposite to one another, not passing through the stone, but merely sunk about half an inch deep.

"There is still another class of stone implements found in great abundance in this district, which formed part of the property of its early rude

<sup>1</sup> "This is a very interesting stone fort, of great size. It consists, in great measure, of an isolated rock, standing near one of the branches of the Ravel river, far up in the mountain. It is sheltered and secluded, with good pasture land around. It is now much dilapidated. There are traces of a way to the summit neatly built up on each side with large blocks of stone, without cement. There is a cave within it, entered apparently from the top, but now utterly choked up with rubbish. It appears to have been, in old times,

a residence of its class of the first importance. Further down the river is an old graveyard, but at which there is no trace of a church, or any other building, nor does any information, that I am aware of, exist concerning it, except that, at the time of the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, it was a parish church, having an income of £5 a year. Near it is a holy well, formerly visited as such, but now neglected. A fair had also been held here from an old date, but was discontinued about a century ago.

inhabitants, and the use of which has given rise to some conjecture. These consist of small, flat, round stones, about an inch and a half in diameter, generally, and about a quarter of an inch thick, with a small hole in the centre (I enclose a fair specimen). Some are larger than this, indeed nearly three inches in diameter. They are found both in Down and Antrim. By some, it is supposed these stones were used in some way for spinning; the people call them fairy mill-stones. My own conjecture is, that they were used for buttons, for which purpose they would seem to be well adapted.

“Though it has been said that little or no trace of agricultural operations has been observed, this applies only to the green mountain pasture, at the head of the valley. A little lower down, marks of old cultivation appear in occasional spots. These consist of ridges of great breadth, the furrows still of much depth. At one of these places a wooden spade, about three feet and a half long, was found.”

The following observations relative to the seal of O’Kelly, of Hy-many (see vol. II., new series, p. 448), were forwarded by Mr. T. L. Cooke :—

“One of the great advantages arising from the existence of such an association as the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society is the interchange of ideas, and the mutual aid bestowed by its respective members on each other. Even when corrections happen not to be conclusive on the particular point in discussion, they seldom fail to be highly acceptable, as well as useful, by their evoking observations on some collateral matter of as great interest and value as that which formed the topic inviting attention originally. I therefore feel that the antiquarian public are much indebted to Mr. Gilbert J. French, of Bolton, for his notice of the O’Kelly seal appearing in vol. III., new series, p. 47, of the ‘Journal’ of this Society.

“That writer there suggests that ‘as the mode of indicating heraldic tinctures by lines or points, denominated *taille douce*, originated in Italy about the year 1636, it would be unsafe to attribute an earlier date to the curious bronze seal engraved at page 448 (vol. II., new series), on which the field, gules, is distinctly marked by perpendicular lines.’

“There is, I apprehend, a mistake in the statement just copied; for the regal helmet and monkish figure of the handle of the O’Kelly seal seem to me to prove that that particular relic once belonged to some personage of the O’Kelly family who was at the same time, or had been at different periods of his life, the King of Hy-Many, and a friar of the Order of St. Francis. In my paper, referred to by Mr. French, I have attributed the ownership of the seal to the most recent member of the O’Kelly family who, I believed, was found to fill these two positions in society; and I endeavoured to show that as the seal was found in the country of Hy-Many, and at no great distance from a Franciscan establishment founded by the ancient Irish family of O’Kelly, the evidence that it had belonged to an O’Kelly, at once king and friar, was almost conclusive as to the owner.

“It is clear to me that at whatever time the art of expressing colours

in heraldry by engraving first originated in Italy, it was known in other countries long before 1636, the era assigned for its invention by Mr. French. Thus, on the armorial bearings of France, as engraved on a plate in a copy of Camden's 'Annals of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth' (printed at Leyden in 1625), now in my library, the Field, *azure*, is represented by *horizontal lines*. The use of that device by engravers for representing the *azure* tincture was, therefore, beyond doubt practised in Holland eleven years previous to the time assigned for its invention in Italy by Mr. French.

"My sole wish being such as should inspire every real searcher after truth, I must here render my humble assistance to Mr. French by referring to Brydson's 'Summary View of Heraldry' (1795), p. 60, in which is written:—'S. Petra Sancta, an Italian Herald *about two centuries ago*, is said to have been the first who thought of expressing the tinctures by lines and points.' This brings the supposed modern invention to a date about sixty-one years antecedent to the era given by Mr. French. I am convinced that the art was practised long before even the year 1595.

"In my small collection at Parsonstown is a gutta percha copy of an impression from a seal of Fromundus le Broune, preserved amongst the records in Kilkenny Castle, where this Society can, I presume, readily have access to the original.<sup>1</sup> This copy was kindly presented to me several years ago by my excellent friend, Mr. Prim, one of our learned and praiseworthy Honorary Secretaries. The field on this seal appears to be distinctly marked by lines in the manner still used by heralds to notify the tincture, *Murrey*; which, on coats of gentlemen, is called *Sanguine*; of noblemen, *Sardonix*; and of princes, *Dragon's Tail*. It is represented by diagonal, parallel lines crossing other diagonal, parallel lines in the manner of Saltires, or St. Andrew's crosses. (See the Introduction to Playfair's 'Family Antiquity'; also the Introduction to Kent's 'Grammar of Heraldry'.)

"The introduction to Carter's 'Honor Redivivus' (London, 1670), pp. 10, 11, 17, informs us that this heraldic colour is composed of lake, with the addition of a little Spanish brown. It is a tincture scarcely used by English heralds.

"From the style and fashion of this last-mentioned seal, it manifestly belongs to about the time of King Edward III.; and I find on the close-roll of the thirty-third year of that King, memb. 44 (A. D. 1360), the following entry regarding Fromundus le Broune and wife, viz.:—'Sic ecia Fromūdus le Broune et Nesta ux.' If the Kilkenny seal belonged to this Fromundus le Brun, it carries us back in the art of conventional engraving far earlier than the date to which I have ventured to suppose the O'Kelly seal to belong."

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The following papers were communicated to the Society:—

<sup>1</sup> The hatchings on the field of the seal of Fromundus le Brun, alluded to by Mr. Cooke, are merely ornamental, and intended to give relief to the charge on the shield, as is well

known to collectors of ancient seals, and as exemplified by many seals in the Ormonde collection. Sometimes this ground-work takes the form of scrolls.—Ed.